



RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1/116
U.S. APP. NO. 10/824,477

REMARKS

Formalities:

Applicant again respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge Applicants' claim for foreign priority or receipt of the foreign priority document.

The Examiner has indicated acceptance of the drawings.

Claim Rejections:

Claims 1-3, 5-11, and 13-18 are pending. Claims 5 and 13 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner has maintained the same rejections as in the December 27, 2005 Office Action. Claims 1-3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shono (JP 2002-169034A). Claims 6, 8-12, and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shono in view of Noh (KR 2001-0039013). Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shono in view of Noh, and further in view of Yang (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,307).

In the March 8, 2006 Amendment, independent claims 1 and 9 were amended to recite a feature "wherein the prism pattern has a horizontal section in the shape of triangles." As argued in the Amendment, the prism pattern widens the range of a horizontal direction angle of the light transmitted into the light guide panel via the light incident surface, thereby preventing darks areas. However, the triangular prism shape 12 of Shono and has a vertical section in the shape of a triangle, and in Noh, a triangular prism pattern is shown having an apex angle B. However, the triangular prism pattern has a vertical section in the shape of a triangle.

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In response, the Examiner states that although the structure of Shono appears different than the claimed invention, a horizontal cross section yields the shape of triangles as claimed in the application. Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion, and refers the Examiner to Figures 2-4 of Shono which show the vertical section in the shape of a triangle, and *not* the horizontal section in the shape of triangles.

Further, in the Response to Arguments section at page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner argues that Noh teaches a prism sheet with a vertical section in the shape of isosceles triangles and if this prism sheet were rotated, the prism sheet would have a horizontal section in the shape of isosceles triangles. The Examiner merely states that this would be an obvious alternative in order to direct the light as desired by the user for various applications of the light system. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide teachings in Noh, or any other reference where the “obvious alternative” is taught, particularly in view of Shono and Noh having vertical, rather than horizontal sections.

Shino shows an incident end surface part 3 having a triangular prism shape 12 having a vertical section in a shape of triangle and enlarging the range of vertical direction angle of the light transmitted into the light guide panel. Noh shows a triangular prism pattern having a vertical section in a shape of triangle.

However, both Shono and Noh are silent with respect to the enlargement of the range of horizontal direction angle of the light transmitted into the light guide panel using the triangular prism pattern having a horizontal section in a shape of a triangle. Therefore, it is not obvious to rotate and apply the triangular prism pattern of Noh into the incident end surface part 3 of Shono.

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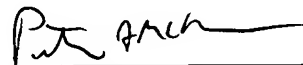
Finally, in the Response to Arguments section at page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner notes that Toyoda (submitted in the March 24, 2006 Information Disclosure Statement) teaches a prism with horizontal isosceles triangles, and that using this reference as a teaching would yield another obvious alternative. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner again identify the teaching of this "obvious alternative" in Toyoda, and also clarify whether Toyoda is being used as part of a 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection.

Applicant submits that claims 1-3, 6-11, and 14-18 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth in the Amendment of March 8, 2006, as well as the additional reasons set forth above.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 25, 2006